

Alumni Columns

Magazine Summer 2010
Northwestern State University of Louisiana



Dream Come True



Dr. Randall J. Webb, 1965, 1966.
President, Northwestern State University

Dear Alumni:

This has been a challenging year for Northwestern State University as well as all higher education institutions. A decline in state revenues because of the recession has led to a reduction of more than \$8 million in state appropriations. And more cuts could be coming in the next 12 months.

Despite the difficult financial times, the people of Northwestern are continuing to carry out their most important possible mission which is to provide the best possible education for our students.

This year, more than 1,400 students were added to the list of graduates who have brought great distinction to Northwestern for more than 125 years. We know they have been prepared to go forward and make a positive difference in their communities.

There have been several positive achievements at Northwestern over the past year. The Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts has brought national and international acclaim to the University. The NSU International Chorale performed in several cathedrals in England during spring break. The Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band was invited to march in the 2011 New Year's Day Parade and Festival in London. Alumnus Terrence Daniels recently made his debut on Broadway in the musical *La Cage Aux Folles*.

Our online education programs are increasingly popular with students and are being recognized. The online programs in psychology and criminal justice were rated among the Best Values in Online Colleges by the web site GetEducated.com.

Northwestern was cited as being among the national leaders among public master's degree institutions in closing the gap in graduation rates between white and minority students, according to a report by The Education Trust.

The Office of Continuing Education was named "Best Place to Learn Something New in Louisiana" in a survey of individuals 50 and above.

It has also been exciting to be part of a number of activities associated with Northwestern's 125th anniversary. It is gratifying and humbling to be part of such a great institution. Thank you for all you do to make Northwestern a special place.

William Drake Owens, 2004, 2005
Director of Alumni and Development

My fellow alumni:

Graduation day is one of my favorite days of the year, as I have the opportunity to visit with many friends, parents and alumni who have returned to campus to watch their child or loved one walk across the stage in Prather Coliseum to receive their diploma. In my observation, it is a day in which everyone is happy.

As the academic year concluded, so did our year-long celebration of Northwestern's 125th anniversary. It was a year marked with commemorative activities, the release of a coffee table book and many events that acknowledged the important role that NSU plays in the community and throughout northwest Louisiana.

Involvement in Northwestern alumni activities continues to grow. Several new alumni chapters have formed with monthly events for alumni, their family and friends. If you would like to organize an alumni chapter in your area, please let us know and we will be happy to help. You can view photos from gatherings and stay current on campus news and events by visiting our website at northwesternalumni.com.

Alumni are the most powerful voice for prospective students, and I encourage you to share your experience and stories with these students. Please let us know if we can be of assistance to you in providing information about NSU to a promising student. I hope to see you on campus this fall and I thank you again for all that you do for Northwestern.



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It is the policy of Northwestern State University of Louisiana not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment practices.

Meet the Excellence Campaign Steering Committee

NSU's Capital Campaign, "Excellence: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow," is moving forward with the help of some very dedicated alumni willing to give of their time and expertise. With their help and yours, we are proud to announce that we are more than halfway to our goal of \$25 million. We'd like to thank all of those who have joined the Excellence Team or donated monetarily and those who have volunteered their time and talents, including our Steering Committee. We think you'll find they're a very talented group with one thing in common- their love for NSU.



Butch Ballard

Butch Ballard came to Northwestern from Bogalusa in 1972 to play football, but he has turned his relationship with NSU into a family affair. He married NSU alumna, Jody Foster Ballard and of their three children, one is a current NSU student. He is a loyal supporter of NSU Athletics and is a member of the Select 100. Butch currently owns Mechanics Sourcing Group, an industrial sales agency and lives in Huntsville, Texas.



David Morgan

A 1973 graduate of NSU, David Morgan founded United Teachers Associates Insurance Company, a nationwide company specializing in insurance products for active and retired teachers. He built a company worth more than \$100 million and has gone on to own a number of other insurance companies. He currently serves as a member of the Alumni Association and was inducted into the Long Purple Line in 1994. He and his wife Sherry, also an alumna, endowed a professorship in the College of Business in 1995. David also established the "Extra Mile" scholarship program for Pi Kappa Phi members at NSU.



Nicole Gray

Nicole Gray is a program manager for XO Communications in Dallas and president of Gray Ventures, LLC, a firm that specializes in consulting services and event planning. She received her bachelor's degree in journalism from NSU in 1995 and spearheaded the organization of the Black Alumni Alliance in 2008, where she serves as acting president. Nicole also established the James L. Oliphant Endowed Football Scholarship with the NSU Foundation.



Jill Cantrell Morrison

Jill Cantrell Morrison is a native of Marthaville and a 1993 NSU graduate with a degree in Journalism. While at NSU, she was a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma and a student worker in the Athletic Department. After graduate school, she worked as an executive assistant for Dal-Tile and Windle Turley. Jill is a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association and is involved with the Education is Freedom Program through the Junior League of Dallas. She and her husband Dave are regular hosts of the Dallas-area NSU Alumni Crawfish Boil.



Trey Hill

Trey Hill is a 1985 graduate of the College of Business. He currently serves as the director of public affairs for Atmos Energy Corporation. He is very committed to civic involvement, serving as a member of the President's Council, the Business College Dean's Advisory Council, on the Boards of Directors of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industries and the Public Affairs Research Council, among others. He has been married to his wife, Jackie, for 24 years, and they have three children.



Lenn Prince

Lenn Prince is a 1975 graduate of NSU and received her master's degree in vocal performance from ULM. She was awarded a scholarship from the University of Miami to perform and study in Salzburg, Austria, with world renowned singers and teachers. Lenn and her husband, Danny, own and operate diversified businesses in several states. They have four adult children and divide their time between their homes in Ruston and Dallas.



Patricia Hrapman

Patty Wiggins Hrapmann is a third generation Demon. She is married to Kenny Hrapmann, fellow 1973 graduate. Patty achieved National Board Certification in 2000 and was inducted into the NSU Hall of Distinguished Educators in 2002. She is a proud member of the Alumni Board. She presently lives in New Orleans where after retiring from public education has become the director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development at Holy Cross School where her husband Kenny coaches.



Casey Crowder Thompson

Casey is a 2001 cum laude graduate in Business Administration. During her time at Northwestern, she was a member of Phi Mu Fraternity and Purple Jackets, among many others. She was chosen as Miss Louisiana 2002 and competed in the Miss America pageant. Currently, she is in her eighth year as a senior sales professional with Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals. Casey is married to Major Mike Thompson and lives in Shreveport.



Gail Jones

Gail Jones serves as the community liaison for the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office and is a former executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Natchitoches. She received bachelor's and master's degrees from NSU and has established the Gail M. Jones Mentor Scholarship. Gail currently serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.



Cheryl Reese Wilson

Cheryl Reese Wilson is the chief operating officer for the Rapides Healthcare System with 30 years of hospital management experience in Texas and Louisiana hospitals. She received her bachelor's degree in journalism from NSU in 1972 and went on to receive a master's degree in Student Personnel Services from NSU in 1974. She also holds a master's degree in Hospital and Health Care Administration. Cheryl was inducted into the Long Purple Line in 2002 and received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from NSU in 2006 for her instrumental work in establishing an Alexandria campus of the departments of Nursing and Radiologic Technology. She currently serves on the NSU Foundation Board of Directors.



New Orleans Saints Defensive Line Coach Bill Johnson and former Saints quarterback Bobby Hebert spoke at the Super Saints Celebration, held in Natchitoches in April. NSU Head Football Coach Bradley Dale Peveto also spoke.



Super Saints Celebration

NSU alum shares thoughts about the Saints' magical season and his roots as a Demon

His career as a football coach wasn't his idea. One of his players at Northwestern prodded him into asking out the sorority girl who became his wife. And yes, although he saw the logic from a perspective only a few dozen people shared, he thought it was crazy to try an onside kick to open the second half of Super Bowl XLIV.

Crazy enough that it might just work.

Those forks in the road all led to fortune shining on the man known during his days at Northwestern as Smilin' Bill Johnson, NSU class of 1980.

Getting into the doghouse shortly after his playing career ended when the Demons drew the ire of then-NSU assistant coaches Al Miller and Joe Raymond Peace. Their tongue-lashing started Johnson on a path that carried him to the sidelines at Super Bowl XLIV as the defensive line coach for the New Orleans Saints.

We all know how that ended.

"It's an unbelievable story," said Johnson, who could have

been referring to his personal road or the Saints' ascension to Super Bowl Champions in his first year with the team. "Ole Rudy ain't got nothin' on ole Johnson."

The tale traces all the way back to his days even before he played football for Northwestern as a hard-nosed center from 1975-78. A coach at Monroe's Lee Junior High asked the strong-armed, curly-haired kid sitting on a heater in the hallway why he didn't play football, and "I ain't stopped since," grinned Johnson. Raised by a single mother, he found a father figure in legendary Neville High football coach Charlie Brown, who later asked Johnson to make the presentation speech for Brown's 2001 enshrinement in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. But first, Brown helped nurture Johnson's football career to the point that he found his way onto the NSU campus to try to play college ball.

He made the most of it, earning a scholarship along with four letters as a deep snapper and the starting center for two seasons under coach A.L. Williams. Heading toward graduation in spring 1979, he figured he'd go back to Monroe and get a job working in a paper mill, until he and Demon teammate Petey Perot got into "a skirmish" while out one night.

They were called in by Peace, the offensive line

coach, and Miller, the linebackers coach whose innovative strength training concepts soon afterward carried him into the NFL ranks and made him a trailblazer in that field. Sitting in Peace's office in Prather Coliseum, seeing his coach peering over a metal desk with steely eyes, was not a comfortable posture.

"They were ripping us pretty good, and to make matters worse, I'd made a D in a class. I made pretty decent grades, but this was a D," said Johnson. "Coach Peace got onto me about that and asked what I was going to do after I graduated, if I graduated. When I told him I figured I'd go home and get a paper mill job, he about popped.

"He looked at me and said, 'You're gonna coach football, that's what. You're going to help me here next year. That's what you're cut out to do, can't you see that?'" recalled Johnson. "Those coaches steered me in the right direction. So many times, never more so than right there, I've had angels come down and help me along."

Johnson began working with the offensive linemen, but when Sam Goodwin took over as head coach, was shifted to coaching defensive linemen as a graduate assistant. That put him in charge of a caustic Cajun defensive tackle, Ed Orgeron, who was also destined for a coaching career and a reputation as one of college football's premiere recruiters. For Johnson, Orgeron's eye for talent manifested when the player told his coach about a Tri Sigma girl he knew in trainer Eugene Christmas' class, and Orgeron thought Dawn Doherty would be a great match for Johnson.

"Ed went to a sorority party and came back and said I ought to meet her. Doc Christmas told me, 'she's just a sweet girl, you ought to meet her.' Well, I'm almost seven years older than her. I wasn't going to date a student. But she was from Winnfield, and she was around on Thanksgiving week, and we took a ride and ate dinner, and we hit it off. Twenty-six-plus years later, it's like a dream. We got engaged at Christmas and got married that next summer. When you know it's right, it's right," he said, beaming.

"She's been strong enough to hang with me and every time we've left someplace, it seems she's the one that left a mark. So there's another time an angel was taking care of this Demon."

They have two kids, Billy and Abby, both students at the University of Georgia, rooted in that area because the family spent six years in Atlanta when Johnson broke into the NFL as defensive line coach for coach Dan Reeves and the Falcons in 2001. He weathered a head coaching change to Jim Mora Jr., but another shift led him to Mike Shanahan's staff in Denver for two years (2007-08). After Shanahan's surprising dismissal last winter, he was about to choose a job in Green Bay over working back in his home state for the Saints.

"You'd look at that and think I had a chance to come home, but I loved the idea of coaching in Green



Pictured left to right are Bobby Hebert, Coach Bradley Dale Peveto and Coach Bill Johnson.

Bay. I went up there and had a great visit. Then I visited with (Saints head coach) Sean Payton, they had (quarterback) Drew Brees, and (defensive coordinator) Greg Williams was probably coming on board.

"I thought it was all lined up right as far as winning in New Orleans, so I made a football decision, not a coming home decision," he said. "I felt good about it, but it turned out to be a dream come true, an emotional ride."

Coming home had its definite perks, like opportunities to reunite with former Demon teammates and NSU friends like Perot (now coaching at Louisiana Tech), quarterback Butch Ballard (a Bogalusa native and frequent visitor to NSU and south Louisiana) and the effusive Bobby Hebert, the NSU and Saints star quarterback now in a role as the lightning rod of sports broadcasting in New Orleans and on the Saints Radio Network.

It didn't take long for Johnson to sense something special was within reach. During last April's offseason training activities involving the team, "I saw what we had and I was really excited," he said.

"We won the Super Bowl in April, May, June, July and August. You could feel the chemistry on the team, and the work ethic was tremendous. People were having fun getting a lot done."

In his 29th season of coaching, 21 in college at stops such as Miami, Texas A&M and Arkansas, Johnson knew a good thing when he saw it. He was a graduate assistant coaching linebackers when the Jimmy Johnson-coached Miami Hurricanes won the 1987 major college national championship.

The 2009 Saints exploded on what was, for them, an unprecedented run, staying undefeated through their first 13 (of 16) regular-season games.

"It was the biggest grind I can ever remember, from 8-0 to 13-0, trying to protect that win streak," he said. "We were getting real beat up. The players were drained. But it still took a real good team to knock us off our perch, and Dallas did it."

Even though the team entered the playoffs having lost three straight, Johnson was confident. A month later, he was standing on the sideline in Miami as Carrie Underwood sang the national anthem with fighter jets flying past just before kickoff of the Super Bowl.

"I was never a pro football fan until I got into it myself, but I knew the New Orleans Saints had a lot of years when they weren't even competitive. I'm taking in that scene, the game is about to start, and I just felt something special was going to happen, I really did," he said.

That began to unfold when the Saints went into the locker room at halftime having closed an early 10-0 deficit to a 14-10 gap, but about to kick off to the potent Indianapolis Colts offense

led by superstar quarterback Peyton Manning.

"Sean said to the coaches, 'it's a low possession game, and down four points about to give the ball to Peyton Manning to start the second half, we've got to steal one. What about trying the onside kick here?'" Now that'll raise your eyebrows. But if they take the ball and score a touchdown, we're down 11, two scores, and it's a big hill to climb because it's tough to stop Peyton.

"We had seen something in film study we thought would open up for us, and worked the onside kick for two weeks going in. Our kickoff guy, Thomas Morstead, was a rookie from SMU and he was doing a nice job in practice. Well, the word spreads through the locker room that we're going to do it, and they found him in the back throwing up. He had never tried one in a game before.

"So we go out for the second half, and we all know what's coming. Nobody else does. I put on my best poker face, looked around the stadium, and thought, these people ain't going to believe this. I was standing right where the kick needed to end up. It took the officials almost four minutes to decide who had the ball. It was a great play by our guys, a great coaching decision by Sean, because it created a complete change in the game. It was high risk, high reward. We drove the ball and scored, and the game turned our way," he said.

"It was so numbing, the feeling after the game. Think of a balloon blown up full, and then you let the air out. The season was the balloon, gradually filling up to the brim at the Super Bowl. Your emotion and intensity is at a fever pitch, and then when we stopped them with 44 seconds to go, we knew we could run out the clock. I thought back to Lee Junior High, Neville High, Northwestern, coaching for nine years at Texas A&M, all through the years," said Johnson. "They say it flashes through your mind, and it did. It was a little tough to get your arms around. But the NFL people, they do a great job at the end of the game of getting your family to you on the field. They understand what that moment means and who you want to share it with.

"It was pure. It was special," he said. "I'd won the national championship at Miami, played on a state championship team at Neville. But this one was different because it touched so many people, so deeply.

"I've never seen so many grown men cry in a 24-hour period as I did that night and the next day. It meant that much to all of us, because we knew how much it meant to the Saints fans everywhere, the city of New Orleans, the state of Louisiana."

The celebration, quickly dubbed Lombardi Gras considering the NFL's Vince Lombardi Trophy for the Super Bowl champs and New Orleans' trademark, impending Mardi Gras festivities, was epic. The afterglow lasted into April, when the Saints gathered to begin offseason workouts for 2010.

"You want to hold on to those memories, but you better realize, that's done now. I've still got the fight and the hunger. When you win one, you really believe you can do it again, and you want to prove you can," he said.

That's a jazz riff that's music to the ears of Saints fans, and it's a way of life for Bill Johnson. The challenges never end, but now his sense of accomplishment will never fade, either. Nor will his pride in NSU, as he told this year's Demon football team in a spring visit.

"Everywhere I've been, every Sunday morning, I'm checking the paper to see how the Demons did," said Johnson. "This is where my life's destiny was set. I found what I was supposed to do. I found the woman to spend my life with. I made lifelong friends. No matter where I go, this will always be home."

SPOTLIGHTS

☼ **Billy Kidd** (1957) was honored during the Keller, Texas, Independent School District Hall of Fame ceremonies after 49 years of coaching, teaching, mentoring and encouraging countless young men and women across the Metroplex.

"I am proud of this honor and want to share the thoughts with others so that they may also appreciate what NSU is giving them. I want to thank all the Demons everywhere for helping me."

During the ceremony, Kidd was lauded for his unyielding desire to motivate others and serve as a model for all to follow. After graduating from Northwestern and North Texas State University, Kidd returned to his old high school, Dallas Sunset High School, and began a career in teaching and coaching. He coached in the Dallas area from 1957-1970 and later served in the district as a principal, assistant superintendent, demographic and building needs coordinator and athletic director.

"I guess that I taught or coached over 10,000 students during that period of time but probably had some influence on another 10,000 through my works. I even coached a national champion shot putter. But for all the success that I may have had, my thanks go back to my teachers and coaches at Northwestern, especially Coach Ledet, Coach Turpin and Coach Brown. Their examples of life have given me direction in my work."

During his tenure as athletic director, Kidd developed Keller's athletic programs, implementing new programs and overseeing the construction of new facilities as the district grew from three school buildings and 1,800 students to 32 campuses and over 27,000 students. One of the many highlights of his tenure as athletic director was the development of the girls' softball program.

Kidd and his wife of more than 50 years, Annette, have a daughter, three sons and seven grandchildren.

☼ **Brian Henderson** (2004) of Russellville, Ark., is the new director of the Office of Student Services for the University of Arkansas - Little Rock's College of Business. Henderson, a native of Berryville, Ark., is the former

career development specialist at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville.

The Office of Student Services assists College of Business students with the admissions process, academic advising, tutoring, career guidance and job placement; Cooperative Education internships, and graduation checkout. The office also coordinates professional development workshops, networking events, and career fairs.

"I love the student services side of higher education and the opportunity to meet new students and help them grow professionally as they prepare for their career," Henderson said. "With the College of Business I have the goal of partnering and building relationships with local, regional, and national employers as well as UALR alumni to connect each of our students to a company and work experience that best fits their talents, skills, education, and goals. I take pride in providing opportunities that help groom students into their professional career as well as helping them develop skills that will last a lifetime."

Henderson holds a master of education degree from Northwestern State University and a bachelor's degree in physical education from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville.



Brian
Henderson

career at ABC affiliate KAIT-TV in Jonesboro, Ark., where she covered Hurricane Katrina and Gustav evacuees and several court cases including the West Side School Shooting.

☼ **Grady Beard** (1983) has been named a fellow in The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers, an organization that seeks the best workers' compensation attorneys in the country. Beard is a member of Sowell Gray Stepp and Laffitte LLC. Beard was officially inducted in March, during the American Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Mid-Winter Conference. He became the first attorney to represent South Carolina in the organization.

The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers honors lawyers who have distinguished themselves representing plaintiffs or defendants or acting as judges in workers' compensation cases. Fellows must have practiced workers' compensation law for at least 20 years to be considered to join.

Beard attended Louisiana State University and graduated summa cum laude from Northwestern State University. He earned his law degree at the Emory University School of Law.

Best Lawyers in America has recognized Beard's skills as a workers' compensation attorney by including him in its annual publication every year since 2008. His other practice areas are appellate advocacy, employment law and alternative dispute resolution.

☼ The Pittman sisters, all graduates of the College of Nursing, were featured in an article in the November 2009 issue of *Slice*, a Shreveport healthy lifestyle magazine. The article described the unveiling of the Pittman Hall of Tradition, part of the College of Nursing's 60th anniversary observance and NSU's 125th anniversary celebration. Also recognized were **Louise Sudbury** and **Gloria Morris**, members of the Class of 1953, the first graduating class of nurses with four-year degrees. NSU's degree program was initiated in 1949 and is the oldest state-supported nursing program in Louisiana. In 2008, it had the fourth largest undergraduate enrollment in the nation.

The Pittmans grew up in Dubberly



Krystal
Whitman

☼ **Krystal Whitman** (2007) joins WEY1 NBC25, Clio, Mich, as a reporter. At Northwestern, she was an anchor with NSU 22News and also won two local Miss America titles by

advocating for domestic violence victims and volunteering for the homeless. After college she landed an internship at ABC affiliate KTRK in Houston. There she covered the Enron scandal and NASA. She began her professional broadcasting



Sherman Desselle (2007) a reporter/photographer at KALB-TV in Alexandria, interviewed late night talk show host and comedian Jay Leno, who was appearing at the Coushatta Casino Resort in Kinderhook earlier this year. "Jay is an easy going, well seasoned 'plain ham sandwich' kind of guy," Sherman said. "He's a billionaire who's not caught up in the billions. He did the interview in old washed out jeans and a denim shirt, then he performed an hour and 40 minute stand-up like it was nothing. What is there not to like about the guy?"

in a family of 16 children. The graduates are **Thelma Pittman Walker** (1959), **Juanita Pittman Strickland** (1963), **Shirley Pittman Smiley** (1967), **Victoria Pittman Kennedy** (1973), **Karon Pittman Hanushek** (1976), **Julia Pittman Baldwin** (1978) and **Michelle Pittman** (1981). Michelle went on to medical school and became a surgeon.

✿ **Kendra Pullen** (1998) was one of more than 100 teachers and mentors from across the country honored by President Barak Obama at the White House in January for their work in science, math and technology. Pullen, a science and social studies teacher at Riverside Elementary in Caddo Parish, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is given annually to teachers selected by a special panel.

At a ceremony in the ornate East Room, Obama praised the teachers and mentors for their contributions inside and outside the classroom.

Obama told the educators they are key to closing the gap between U.S. students and students in other countries in learning science.

Pullen is a key organizer of the Riverside Elementary Science Fair. She also serves on several committees, including the Louisiana Science Standards and Benchmarks Committee.

She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Northwestern State and a master's degree in educational leadership from Louisiana State University in Shreveport. She was named the Wal-Mart Local Teacher of the Year in 2007 and the Caddo Parish

Teacher of the Year in 2006.

In recognition of the honor, NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb presented her with a specially inscribed brick in the Alumni Plaza.

✿ **Brian Brown** (1990) provided the keynote address at the Grand View University, Des Moines, Ia., commemoration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January. A native of New Iberia, Brown graduated from Northwestern with a bachelor's degree in industrial technology and safety. While competing in track and field as a high jumper, Brown was ranked seven times in the top ten U.S. high jump list during his distinguished career, climaxed by being ranked No. 2 in the U.S. in 1997 and 1998 and as well as No. 9 in the world in 1998.

While competing for Northwestern, Brown won the 1989 U.S. Outdoor Championships and the 1990 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. He owns a personal best of 7 feet 8 inches in 1990 and was the bronze medalist at the 1998 Goodwill Games. Brown, who owns the Drake Relays special invitational high jump record of 7-7 in 1997, won the 1997 Milrose Games and was second in the 1998 U.S. Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Brown received a master's degree from the University of Missouri in 1995 and completed his doctoral degree in May 2005, also from Missouri. Brian is married to Drake head track and field coach Natasha Kaiser-Brown, a 1992 Olympic Silver Medalist. Brian and Natasha have three children. Elle 9; Quinton, 7, and Kristian, 6.

He is an assistant pastor at Elim Christian Fellowship, in Des Moines.

✿ **Vera Martin** (1948) was honored in 2009 by the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge as one of seven women in the Baton Rouge area named as Silver Magnolias for their volunteer efforts and dedication to humankind. The Silver Magnolia award honors women who have made a positive impact on their community.

Martin is very active in volunteer efforts in her community, working with several organizations, including BRAVE HEART - Children in Need, a group that assists abused children. Brave Heart is a nonprofit volunteer group that is expanding statewide. Martin invites the support of the Northwestern community or anyone interested in volunteering. For more information, visit www.braveheartchildren.org or e-mail Martin at vmartin5@cox.net.

✿ **Emily Hobson** (1968) was recognized by the Marshall, Texas, News-Messenger as an "Everyday Hero," an ongoing series that spotlights people who make an impact in the Marshall community. Hobson said the most rewarding part of her career as a librarian is helping others, not only in their academic pursuits, but also in promoting a love of reading. The article stated that as an undergraduate at NSU, Emily was undecided about what major to pursue. Noticing her love of books, an advisor suggested she consider becoming a librarian.

After graduating from Northwestern,
continued on page 6

Alumna, 103 years young, celebrates another birthday

Mittie Oden Bryan of Shreveport celebrated another landmark birthday on Feb. 2 and was feted with a luncheon on Feb. 6 that was attended by about 75 family and friends. Mittie, who reached the age of 103, is possibly the oldest living alumna of Northwestern, having graduated from Normal in 1925.

Mittie was born in Panola County, Texas, in 1907 and graduated from Greenwood High School in 1923. She was one of seven children growing up near Bethany, a community on the Louisiana-Texas state line, and the first in her family to attend college.

Mittie's first teaching job was at Webb Elementary, a one-room school on Greenwood Road, where she taught first through fifth grade for \$100 per month. Webb Elementary closed in 1929 and students transferred to Jewella Elementary. Mittie was a substitute teacher at four different elementary schools – Jewella, Judson, Hillsdale and Sunset Acres – until 1965.

Virginia Metcalf (1953), Mittie's niece and a Wisconsin resident, said she chose to attend Northwestern because her aunt spoke so highly of the school.



Celebrating her 103rd birthday, Mittie Oden Bryan (1925), seated, was presented with special gifts from Northwestern, as the university's oldest known living graduate. Joining her were Col. (Ret.) Virginia Metcalf (1953), and Jill Bankston, Assistant Director of Alumni and Development (1997).

Guests from across the country attended the celebration. Among them was Mittie's nephew Bob Lee of Katy, Texas (1965), and one of Mittie's former students from Webb Elementary, who just turned 90. Family friend Alida Bishop Casey (1950) was unable to be part of this year's birthday celebration. Alida's mother, Elmyra Landry, was Mittie's best friend and classmate at Normal. Alida was a member

of Purple Jackets, Sigma Sigma Sigma and the State Fair Court, among other accomplishments. Alida is active in the Baton Rouge Alumni Chapter.

NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb extended birthday wishes and sent Mittie a personalized stadium blanket.

According to her niece Virginia, Mittie enjoys good general health and "is a role model for all of us."

Spotlights continued from page 5

Emily earned a master's degree in library science at the University of North Texas. She retired from the school system after 24 years as a school librarian and for the past three years has worked at the Marshall Public Library.

❁ **Elaine Beek** (1971), an assistant professor of education at LSU-Alexandria, was honored with the Bolton Award for Teaching Excellence. The award is the university's highest recognition for a faculty member. It

is presented annually to a full-time member of the LSUA faculty who best exemplifies the university's commitment to teaching, service and professional development.

In addition to teaching mathematics, science and social studies methods, Beek is responsible for field placement and supervision of LSUA student-teachers.

Beek has been a member of the faculty since 2003. She is the most recent recipient of Post-Secondary Educator of the Year for Region VI (nine Central Louisiana parishes) by the Louisiana

Association of Computer-Using Educators.

She also is a former winner of the William Craig Outstanding University Educator Award presented by the Louisiana Science Teachers Association, and she is a former director of the Region IV Science Fair.

❁ **Burt John "B.J." Pumroy** (1997) has been named athletic director at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, W.V. Pumroy is the former athletic

continued on page 7



"The Four Freshmen from the 1945 class met in Natchez, Miss., for a reunion, remaining true and close friends all these years and now enjoying our 'Golden Years,'" wrote **Janie Palmer Dobbins** of Baton Rouge. Janie and **Jettie Jane Johnson James** grew up together in Webster Parish and graduated from Doyline High School. **Marilyn Durbin Rife** and **Betty Hays Hazlip** grew up in Tensas Parish and graduated from Waterproof High School. Janie and Jettie Jane were in Sigma Sigma Sigma while Marilyn and Betty joined Alpha Sigma Alpha. Janie and Jettie Jane graduated from Northwestern in January 1949. "We have many fun and beautiful memories of our days at Northwestern," she wrote. From left are Janie, Jettie Jane, Marilyn of Ferriday and Betty.

Spotlights continued from page 6
director at Valley City State University in North Dakota. Previously, he was the assistant AD at Truman State in Kirksville, Mo. Pumroy also served as head baseball coach at Truman State (1992-00), leading the team to conference tournament appearances in 1994, 1998 and 1999. He earned a bachelor of science degree in exercise science from Truman State in 1992 and a master of education degree in sports administration from NSU in 1997.

✿ **Sue Westbrook** was chosen by La. Governor Bobby Jindal as the nursing education representative on the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. A native of Raceland, Westbrook became a nurse after graduating from NSU and later returned to the public university system by becoming an instructor at

Nicholls State University. She rose through the department, picking up more academic credentials, eventually becoming head of the department and later dean of the nursing school. With four decades of experience in nursing and nursing education, Westbrook was sworn in on March 26. The purpose of the board is to serve the citizens of Louisiana by assuring that registered nurses in Louisiana are competent and safe, Westbrook said.

✿ **Clifford J. Mugnier** (1967) was one of four members of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing to be named 2010 ASPRS Fellow Award winners. The ASPRS designation of Fellow is conferred on active Society members who have performed exceptional service in advancing the science and use of

the mapping sciences that include photogrammetry, remote sensing, surveying, geographic information systems, and related disciplines. The nominees must have made outstanding contributions in a recognized Society specialization whether in practice, research, development, administration or education in the mapping sciences. The awards were presented in April at the ASPRS 2010 Annual Conference in San Diego.

Mugnier graduated from Northwestern in 1967. He attended the U.S.A.F. Aeronautical Chart & Information Center Professional Cartographer course in St. Louis where he first joined the American Society of Photogrammetry in 1967. He is currently general manager of the Photogrammetry Division of Owen & White, Inc. Consulting Engineers.



The 2010 Southland Conference champion NSU tennis team posed with two NSU tennis legends, Vicki Sims Newsom of Austin (1992) and Shayne Fitzwilliam Duke of Boca Raton, Fla., (1989) who flew in for the championship match. From left are head coach Patric DuBois, Adna Curukovic, Marie Scriba, Kathrin Lange, Duke, Olga Bazhanova, Andrea Nedorostova, Martina Rubesova, Bianca Schulz, Dragana Colic and Newsom. The Lady Demons claimed the regular-season championship on April 10 by winning at defending champion Texas-Arlington.

Bright lights of Broadway shine on actor

Terry Lavell has worked on cruise ships, overseas, regional theatre and in touring companies, but there's only one place he really wanted to be, on Broadway. The Northwestern State graduate made his Broadway debut April 6, playing the role of Mercedes in the revival of "La Cage Aux Folles."

The show received positive reviews in London, where it was honored with the 2009 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival. The New York production adds five-time Emmy Award winner Kelsey Grammer, who will make his Broadway debut. Music and lyrics are by Jerry Herman with book by Harvey Fierstein.



"It's wonderful. I am having a fantastic time and am enjoying every minute of it," said Lavell, who was known as Terrence Daniels at NSU. "I'm taking it in day by day. A lifelong goal of mine has been achieved. I can't believe it is happening."

Lavell, a 2000 graduate of Northwestern has worked steadily since graduation. He appeared in Tokyo in "Starlight Jazz" and worked on cruise ships. He was in regional theater then appeared in national tours of Hairspray and Smokey Joe's Café. Lavell also appeared in "Happy Life," "Sex and the City" and on the "Dave Chapelle Show."

"After Northwestern, I felt I wasn't ready to move to New York, so I worked in Japan and in the cruise industry," said Lavell. "Going to college helped me a lot. It gave me a depth I wouldn't have had."

Lavell said the four and a half months he spent working in Star Light Jazz at Tokyo Disney was an experience he will never forget.

COE seeking nominations for Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern's College of Education Alumni Advisory Board is seeking nominations for its Hall of Distinguished Educators for 2010. Nominees must have graduated from NSU's College of Education at least 30 years prior to nomination. Inductees will participate in NSU Homecoming activities in the fall.

If you know of an outstanding College of Education alumnus who has had a distinguished career in education, send the nominee's resume and/or other documentation outlining the reason for the nomination to NSU College of Education, c/o Faye Megason, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497. Additional information is available by calling Megason at (318) 357-6278 or e-mailing megasonm@nsula.edu.

The deadline for nominations is July 16.

New directors for the Foundation Board

Chief Rufus Davis and J. Wayne Wilkerson have joined the board of Directors of the NSU Foundation.

Davis wears many hats as businessman, inventor, historian and tribal chief of the Adai Indian Nation.

An innovative thinker, Davis has received patents for two renewable energy products, a hydroelectric generator and a "street energy" product. Both are designed to harness natural energy that can be recycled and used to power communities.

Davis has been a long time support of NSU and is a member of the President's Council.

Wilkerson is a registered representative of FSC Securities in Alexandria. He earned his undergraduate degree from NSU and graduate degree from LSU. He was formerly employed as executive vice president of Rapides Bank and Trust. He is involved in many civic endeavors in Alexandria, including the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce and American Red Cross. He also served as director of the Alexandria Girl Scout Council and was involved with the Louisiana Bankers Association and United Way of Central Louisiana.

Simpson scholarship offers opportunities to deserving student

Ida Simpson's early life was difficult and earning her education a struggle, but she now hopes that two contributions to Northwestern will help deserving students achieve their goals.

Simpson created the Ida Emily Simpson Endowed Scholarship in Journalism that will be presented to a female student from Louisiana with a financial need. She also was among the donors who contributed at the highest level to NSU's first professorship in military science, the Demon Regiment Endowed Professorship, in acknowledgment of her career of service in the U.S. Army. For this contribution, she will be presented with the Regimental Saber Award.

"I want someone to have better opportunities than I did," Simpson said.

Born in 1922, Simpson was orphaned as a child and cared for by neighbors and relatives. She described her childhood as difficult but she persevered and graduated

as valedictorian of her class at Monterey High School. She planned to attend nursing school, but the lady with whom she was living encouraged her to attend college at Louisiana Normal, as Northwestern

"For me, it was work hard or go under. I want someone to have it better than I did."

was then known. She enrolled on a work scholarship and had wanted to pursue journalism, but her caregiver discouraged the idea. Instead, Simpson earned a degree in health and physical education.

Following graduation, she enlisted in the Army in 1943.

"The war was on and I wanted to help with the war effort," she

said. She turned down a chance to go to Officer Candidate School and enlisted as a private, describing herself as a very shy girl.

During a 20-year Army career, Simpson was stationed in England, France, Germany and the U.S. She said she was strong mentally and physically and God was on her side.

After the war, stationed both stateside and abroad, she worked for military newspapers and in public information offices, doing public relations work and newswriting, including serving as head of the public information office at Fort Monroe, Va.

"I learned journalism the hard way," she said, adding that she hopes the creation of her scholarship "could help another young person in journalism."

After her discharge, she lived in New Orleans for 20 years, where she became an avid golfer, before moving to Florida to be near friends and relatives. She now resides in Washington, D.C.

Celebration of Life

Chelsea Ann Umbach (2007) is recovering after a long-awaited and life-saving heart and lung transplant that took place in January. Chelsea, an alumna of the Louisiana Scholars' College, received the transplant at the University of Alabama at Birmingham hospital, after an arduous physical and emotional journey.

Born in New Orleans in 1985, Chelsea was two days old when she was found to have an enlarged heart. After a surgery at one year of age, Chelsea lived normally until age 15 when she was diagnosed with Primary Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, an incurable condition of continuous high blood pressure in the pulmonary artery.

Despite her health difficulties, Chelsea persevered, determined to live life to the fullest.

At NSU, Umbach completed her liberal arts degree and two minors, was valedictorian of the Scholars' College graduating class and president of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. After moving to Birmingham to

be close to the UAB hospital, she enrolled in the UAB graduate program, seeking a graduate degree in English, completing coursework from her hospital bed. She earned top grades by sending in her work electronically and participated in class discussions through video conferencing. This accomplishment was featured on a local Birmingham television news program.

Chelsea's full story and updates on her recovery are available at her family's website, www.harrysdiveshop.com.

March 28 brought another celebration when Chelsea and her fiancé Robert were married in New Orleans.



SON will participate in London New Year's events

The Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band will be spending New Year's Day in 2011 in London, and friends and alumni are invited to join them.

Northwestern's band has been invited to participate in the 2011 New Year's Day Parade and Festival in London. The band will leave from Houston on Dec. 28 and return Jan. 4.

The cost of the trip is approximately \$2,990 and could vary slightly due to currency fluctuations. That includes transportation to Houston and airfare to London, six-night accommodation in a first-class hotel (double or triple occupancy), continental breakfast each day, three dinners at local historic restaurants and a voucher worth approximately \$17 at fast food outlets. Also included are local travel via luxury coach, a full-day tour of London's West End and the city, a full-day tour of the city of Oxford and Stratford upon Avon, the birthplace of William

Shakespeare, an evening performance of a West End theatrical production and a New Year's Eve Gala.

The 2011 New Year's Day Parade and Festival in London will mark the 25th anniversary of what has been called "the world's greatest parade." The annual crowd for the parade is more than half a million people with a worldwide television viewing audience of more than 220 million. The two-mile parade route includes Piccadilly Circle, Regent Street, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall finishing near Westminster Palace, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey.

Alumni and friends wishing to make the trip should make reservations as soon as possible. For more information, please contact Director of Bands Bill Brent at (318) 357-4522 or brent@nsula.edu or Associate Director of Bands Kevin Richardson at (318) 357-6722 or richardsonk@nsula.edu.

Alumni GATHERINGS

Dallas Crawfish Boil



Joseph Gardsbane (1971) and Hannah Casey (2009) were among the guests at the Dallas crawfish boil.



Raven Brown (1999), Keisha Allen, Kita Williams (1999), Andrea Bailey (1999) and Quincy Perkins enjoyed catching up at the Dallas event.

Houston Reception



Brian Duval (2002), Crystal Duval, Jesse Kambrick (2003), Susan Treadway Kambrick (2005), Kim Roberson (2009), and Cade Roberson (1991) attended the Houston gathering.



Arnold Couty (1993), John Breland (1978), Lynda Breland (1977), Rhonda Maggio (1978) and Jan Malmay (1992) were also present for the Houston event.

Scholarship Banquet



Among the students and supporters attending the spring Scholarship Banquet pictured above were seniors Lauren Lupo and Rachel McCalister, Meagan Candiotta (2009), junior Colton Possoit, Chris Sampite (1994), and freshmen Lakyn Baker and Garrett Murchison.

Below juniors Jessica Lopez, Joe Casselberry and Eric McJimsey joined Pat McJimsey, Sue McJimsey, Karen Terrell, Rachel Waskom (2008) and junior Angela Waskom.



Leesville Reception



Ted Jones Scholarship winners for the Leesville area were Jasmine Harris-Johnson of Pickering High School and Kelsey Cook of Anacoco High School. They were congratulated by recruiter Cortney Cavanaugh.

Many



Lyndsey Miller (2007), Larry Nugent (1967), Theda Nugent, Don Burkett (1974) and Caleb Austin, Student Ambassador, welcomed guests to the Many reception.

Bossier City Reception



Ted Jones Scholarship winners from Bossier City were Haughton High School students David Alex Nall, Tanisha White and Audrey Johnson. They were congratulated by recruiters Jana Lucky and Jannah Gray.

Lake Charles



Bryan Nash of Hamilton Christian Academy was named the Ted Jones winner for the Lake Charles area, presented by Cortney Cavanaugh.

Ruston



Attending the Ruston/Monroe reception were, from left, Lyndsey Miller, Jana Lucky, hosts Missy and Corwyn Aldredge and Lenn Prince, along with Tony Hernandez and Jill Bankston.



Recruiters Jana Lucky, right, and Jannah Gray, left, congratulated Ted Jones Scholarship recipients Colin Crawford of West Monroe High School and Damian Morris of Ruston High School.

Shreveport



Ted Jones Scholarship recipients Jessica Jones of Parkway High School and Galen Ray of Southwood High School were congratulated by their parents and NSU staff Jana Lucky, Jannah Gray and Tony Hernandez.

Baton Rouge



Dan (1957) and Lilly Chase were hosts for an alumni and recruiting reception in their Baton Rouge home. Mr. Chase is pictured with Jana Lucky and Jill Bankston.

Baton Rouge



Karl Dummons, Laurie Metoyer (1993, 1997), Lesseley Deshotels (1989) and Lisa Bordelon (1985) were among the alumni at the Baton Rouge gathering, held at Rufino's.

Longview Reception



An alumni and recruiting reception was held in the Longview, Texas, home of Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Long. Attending were, from left, Jill Bankston (1997), Tony Hernandez (1982), Leta Jean Thomas (1981), Lyndsey Miller (2007), Don Brian, Rachel Brian (1972), Lauri Woodson (2006), Grant Woodson (2006), Susan Long and Carroll Long (1967, 1970).

Dallas



Taryn Bright of DeSoto High School was named the Ted Jones Scholarship winner for the Dallas area. She was congratulated by recruiter Cortney Cavanaugh.



Susan and Tommy McCullough hosted a student recruitment reception in Dallas last spring. From left are Director of Recruiting Jana Lucky, Scott and Mary Eickman, parents of a current NSU student; Mr. and Mrs. McCullough and Assistant Director of Development Jill Bankston.

New Orleans



Margaret Roberts (2009) and Shelly Roberts (2002) attended the New Orleans reception.

Covington



Attending a reception in Covington were, from left, Lyndsey Miller (2007), Dr. Misty Wainwright (1996), Kelley Guidry (1997), Brenda Webb (1992), Jana Lucky (1992, 2001) and Jill Bankston (1997).

Lafayette



Patrick Wartelle (1980), Robert DeKeyzer (1950) and Dot DeKeyzer (1951) gathered with fellow alumni at the Lafayette reception, held at the Blue Dog Cafe.

Louisiana Saturday Night in Austin



Stefan Colman (1995) and Jen Colman (1995) joined the fun at the Louisiana Saturday Night in Austin.

Shreveport Crawfish Boil



Glen Talbert (1964), Wayne Earp (1962) and Baxter Earp (1992) attended the Shreveport crawfish boil.



Roland Champagne (1975, 1982) and Harry Solomon were among the guests at the spring Shreveport event.

NSU vocalists perform during tour of England



The Northwestern State University International Chorale prepared to perform at Canterbury Cathedral during a weeklong tour over spring break. The chorale had the opportunity to perform at three cathedrals and a well-known church. On the left are Dr. Burt Allen, conductor, on the right Dr. Chris Gilliam, associate director of choral activities.

The NSU International Chorale performed at three English cathedrals and a well-known church as part of a one-week tour this past spring. The chorale, conducted by Dr. Burt Allen, is the first student musical ensemble to represent Northwestern in an international performing tour. Dr. Christopher Gilliam is associate director and primary administrator.

The 29-member ensemble was chosen through auditions.

Featured student soloists were Kelsey Primeaux and Kayla Carlone, both junior music education majors from Alexandria, Laura Beth Shirey,

a junior music performance major from Canton, Texas, Renee Jessup, a senior music education major from Livingston, Texas, Jamie Green, a junior sacred music major from Port Barre and Meagan Adams, a sophomore music education major from Tioga.

"Travel is an aspect of education that is unmatched. In order for students to appreciate other cultures, they have to go there," said Allen. "When we have been able to travel, students tell me the trip was the most exciting thing they have done as an undergraduate."

The international tour, "Culture and Cathedrals of England," took the Northwestern ensemble to Canterbury Cathedral, Bath Abbey Cathedral, Ely's Cathedral and St. Paul's Church Covent Garden (The Actor's Church).

"Performing in these cathedrals will be a unique musical experience for our students who will get to present works in the acoustical environment they were designed for," said Allen. "This will be an expansion of their education that will be unequalled on campus."

Why I Love NSU

I came to Northwestern in 1960 as the first in my family to attend college. Since my high school graduating class (Gillis-Lake Charles) only had 26 people, NSC seemed huge to me. My childhood friend and freshman roommate, Bucky Talbert, and I were very homesick the first few days. After we got our hair cut off and I put on my "Dog Dennis" hat, things got better. I lived in Rebel Hall my first year and still remember the Confederate flag being raised each morning. I was a math major who had had very limited high school math preparation. Fortunately, I had very good professors who helped me greatly. In addition, I had a friend, Bill Hyams, who helped me very much. Coach Ledet allowed me to be a walk-on in track after my freshman year and I ran for three years. At NSC I met and became roommate of Roy Gentry and we have had a lifelong friendship. Of greater importance, I met my future wife, Pat Kile, and we have been married almost 45 years. I greatly enjoyed my time at NSC and am glad I attended a college big enough to provide my educational needs, but small enough to enable me to be involved in many things, such as Blue Key, student government and athletics.

Maurice (Maury) Dennis -1964
College Station, Texas

Donald Mayeaux of Fort Worth, Texas, will receive a Northwestern watch for submitting the winning entry in a contest to name the Northwestern Alumni monthly e-newsletter. The e-newsletter will hereby be called The Purple Pulse. Thanks to all who submitted ideas.

To subscribe to The Purple Pulse, contact the Alumni Center at werneram@nsula.edu or go to www.northwesternalumni.com and click on First Time Log-in.

Become a fan of both Northwestern State University and the Northwestern State University Alumni Association on Facebook. You are also invited to follow Northwestern on Twitter. Find us on Twitter at NorthwesternStU.

Alumni Updates

1971

Dr. John Edward Kerley is a retired educator, married and lives in Shreveport.

1972

Rebecca Lynn Readhimer Gwinn is retired, married and lives in Natchitoches.

1973

Theresa D'Angelo Bradford is a substitute teacher at the International School of Zurich, married and lives in CH 8820 Wadenswil, Switzerland.

1984

Tamara Courtney Biggerstaff is a teacher at R. Max Abbott Middle School, married and lives in Fayetteville, N.C.

1991

Ashley Anne Mobley Patterson is a second grade teacher at Lafayette Christian Academy, married and lives in Broussard.

1993

Paul Robert Gwinn is a minister of education and administration at Central Baptist Church, married to Jacinda Averitt Gwinn (1995) and lives in Carthage, Texas.

2002

Joseph Trent Jackson is employed with Morris Dickson as a systems analyst, married to Shaunda Renee Andrews Jackson (2003) and lives in Bossier City.

2003

Sara Lynn Griswold Cade is employed with Cade Wood as a secretary, Inc., married and lives in Natchitoches.

Shaunda Renee Andrews Jackson is a registered nurse at LSUHSC-Feist Weiller Cancer Center, married to Joseph Trent Jackson (2002) and lives in Bossier City.

*For more Alumni Updates
please visit our website:*

www.northwesternalumni.com

In Memory

1959 – Carolyn Yvonne Hollingsworth Romine, Oct. 9, 2009

1968 - Shirley Kay Dalme Dickie, Feb. 23, 2010, Lafayette

1970 – Benny Frank Cummings, Dec. 22, 2009 – Shreveport

1975 - Dr. Frank L. Collins, Dec. 19, 2009, Denton, Texas

David Harold Bray, Jan. 7, 2010 – Alexandria

Prince Osei Mensah, Jan. 9, 2010 – Alexandria



LOOKING BACK

In the early 1990s, Northwestern began broadcasting satellite classes to students within a 100-mile radius of campus through the Louisiana Instructional Satellite and Telecommunications Network. LISTN's fully-accredited telecourses were designed for students whose job and family responsibilities prohibited them from attending traditional classes at Northwestern. The program introduced the term "interactive classroom."

In 1995, five classes were offered, produced by the Department of Journalism and Telecommunications, headed by Dr. Ron McBride. The production team for the classes consisted of 14 broadcast students. Instructors went through screenings, "just like in Hollywood."

"The merger of the journalism and telecommunications departments serves as a working entity for the students that help air and broadcast the classes," said McBride, who predicted that other universities would embrace the trend.

"This is the future," he said. "Within 15-20 years, students will be able to dial up classes at home."



Dr. Jack Tollett presented a class via satellite in 1995.

Guess Who?

The Student Union Governing Board, once the governing body of the NSU union and the predecessor of today's Student Activities Board, sponsored many cultural, recreational and social activities throughout the year. During the 1979-80 academic year, the Cinema Focus Committee showed movies such as Rollerball, Close Encounters of the Third Kind and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest while the Social Activities Committee sponsored the Howdy Dance, a Luau prior to the SFA football game and a Disco Dance during State Fair Week. Their main undertaking was the the Lady of the Bracelet pageant in November. Can you name the members of the SUGB's executive committee from that year? The first five alumni to call the Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 with the correct answers will win a prize.



Congratulations to winners who identified Winter Ball Queen Linda Fulgham and Student Union Director Robert Wilson in a photo from 1974. Winners were:

Melanie Babin Torbett 1974 • Susan Stanley 1973 • Glynn Chevallier 1977 • Diane Gallagher 1973



Alumni Updates

Visit our website at
www.northwesternalumni.com
and click on "First Time Log-In"
or use this printed form.

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Alumni Updates" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date _____

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.) _____

Please Circle

Last

First

Middle

Maiden

Current address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

NSU undergraduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

NSU graduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

During which years did you attend NSU? _____

Which organizations were you involved in while a student at NSU? _____

Place of employment _____

Job title: _____ Work phone: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, what degree(s) did he / she earn?

Spouse's undergraduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Spouse's graduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students?

Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497

If you would like information from Admissions, Financial Aid or the NSU Athletic Association, you can contact them at the following address:

University Recruiting

South Hall

Natchitoches, LA 71497

(318) 357-4503 or 800-327-1903

www.nsula.edu/enrollmentservices/recruiting

Financial Aid

Room 109, Roy Hall

Natchitoches, LA 71497

(318) 357-5961

www.nsula.edu/financialaid

Athletic Director

Room 101C, Athletic Fieldhouse

Natchitoches, LA 71497

(318) 357-5251

www.nsudemons.com



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Northwestern at 125
Commemorative Edition 1884-2009
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

* Edited by Jerry Pierce, Steve Horton, Don Sepulveda and Tom Whitehead *

Northwestern has created a coffee table book celebrating its 125th anniversary. It contains 200 pages and more than 700 photographs from the university's archives, documenting the school's history through the decades. Sections include academics, student life, sports and campus views. The book is a 10.5 x 12-inch hardcover publication.

Each book sold helps support Northwestern and its many programs. Copies of the book are available now for \$50 each plus \$10 for shipping.

**Northwestern at 125
Commemorative Edition 1884-2009**

Edited by Jerry Pierce, Steve Horton,
Don Sepulveda and Tom Whitehead

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DATE _____